

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network in which digital content is downloaded, comprising the steps of:

receiving through a network information designating a desired digital content selected by a consumer terminal and a desired digital content transmission condition related to quality of communication selected by the consumer terminal, at a digital content retailer computer system possessing the desired digital content;

sending a request from the digital content retailer computer system to a resource reservation server of a network operator computer system, for a reservation for the network managed by [[a]] the network operator computer system according to the desired digital content transmission condition sent from the consumer terminal;

providing from the digital content retailer computer system the desired digital content designated by the information, to the consumer terminal through the network reserved by the digital content retailer computer system at the desired digital content transmission condition sent from the consumer terminal;

collecting from the consumer terminal, by the digital content retailer computer system, a charge for the desired digital content, the charge including a transmission charge corresponding to the desired digital content transmission condition; and

paying, by the digital content retailer computer system, the transmission charge to the network operator computer system.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the desired digital content transmission condition selected by the consumer terminal includes a transmission time condition.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the network is composed of a plurality of networks managed by a plurality of network ~~operators~~ operator computer systems, and the desired digital content transmission condition selected by the consumer terminal corresponds to a communication quality of each of the networks.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 3, wherein the communication quality of each network is determined by at least one of a data transfer rate, a delay time, a delay variation, a burst size, a cell interval and a cell discard rate.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 3, wherein a bandwidth of the network is reserved with a time condition in the network reservation according to the desired digital content transmission condition.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the desired digital content transmission condition selected by the consumer terminal is a bandwidth guarantee type transmission condition, in which a transmission time period is guaranteed, or a bandwidth no-guarantee type

transmission condition, in which a transmission time period is not guaranteed, and the transmission charge is heightened as the transmission time period is shortened.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the desired digital content includes:

 checking, by the digital content retailer computer system, through the network whether or not the consumer terminal is capable of receiving the desired digital content, before the desired digital content is provided to the consumer terminal at the desired digital content transmission condition.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the desired digital content includes:

 connecting the consumer terminal to the network through a subscriber line which is composed of a telephone line, an optical fiber cable, a coaxial cable or a radio transmission line.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, further comprising:

 sending, from the digital content retailer computer system, a transmission start notice to the consumer terminal before providing the desired digital content;

 managing, by a network operator computer system, a transmission time period in the transmission of the desired digital content until the digital content retailer computer system sends a transmission completion notice to the network operator computer system;

sending, from the network operator computer system, a time-out notice to the digital content retailer computer system in cases where the transmission time period exceeds a prescribed value; and

forcibly terminating, by the digital content retailer computer system, the providing of the desired digital content in cases where the digital content retailer computer system receives the time-out notice from the network operator computer system.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the desired digital content includes:

ciphering, by the digital content retailer computer system, the desired digital content; and

providing from the digital content retailer computer system, ciphered data of the desired digital content.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the information and the desired digital content transmission condition includes:

receiving from the consumer terminal personal information and payment information of the consumer terminal, at the digital content retailer computer system;

making an inquiry to a credit company computer system whether or not the personal information and the payment information received from the consumer terminal is correct;

requesting that the credit company computer system perform the authentication of the consumer according to the personal information and the payment information; and

requesting the credit company computer system to send an authentication notice to the digital content retailer computer system in cases where the personal information and the payment information is correct.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of collecting a charge for the desired digital content includes:

sending, from the digital content retailer computer system, an accounting notice corresponding to the charge for the desired digital content to a credit company computer system;

requesting that the credit company computer system send a bill, which corresponds to the charge for the desired digital content, to the consumer terminal in response to the accounting notice[[:]];

requesting that the consumer pay the charge for the desired digital content to the credit company computer system in response to the bill; and

requesting that the credit company pay the charge paid by the consumer, to the digital content retailer.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the desired digital content includes:

receiving, at the digital content retailer computer system, a reception impossible notice from the consumer indicating that the consumer terminal has not received the desired digital content;

sending a transmission termination notice to the network operator computer system from the digital content retailer terminal; and

sending a transmission no-completion notice to the consumer terminal from the digital content retailer computer system.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the desired digital content computer system is a music file, a video file or a game software title.

Claims 15 -28 (Canceled).